

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01810 051307Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01

OPR-01 SY-05 SAM-01 AID-05 PER-01 IO-10 CU-02 /082 W

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R 051044Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGSJC IINT, TU

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW

1. MEETING IN JOINT SESSION MARCH 4, THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A ONE-MONTH EXTENSION (UNTIL APRIL 5) OF MARTIAL LAW IN THE FOUR PROVINCES OF ADANA, ANKARA, ISTANBUL AND ICEL. PRIMIN SADI IRMAK, SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATES, CITED THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN CYPRUS, THE AEGEAN SITUATION, AND RECENT DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES AS REASONS FOR THE EXTENSION, THE SEVENTH SINCE MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED LAST JULY 20.

2. MEANWHILE, ANKARA MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES MARCH 4 TOOK INTO CUSTODY 12 STUDENTS FOR CONTINUING A BOYCOTT AT THE POLITICAL SCIENCES FACULTY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THIS FOLLOWED A DECLARATION BY THE MARTIAL LAW COMMAND MARCH 2 THAT ANYONE ORGANIZING OR PARTICIPATING IN A RALLY, BOYCOTT, DEMONSTRATION OR MARCH WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE EXPELLED FROM ANKARA PROVINCE.

3. COMMENT. THE EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW SEEMS PRIMARILY
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CONNECTED WITH THE WAVE OF DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES RATHER THAN

WITH THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT
DID NOT ASK THAT MARTIAL LAW BE DECLARED IN EASTERN PROVINCES
WHERE RIOTS OCCURRED LAST MONTH, PROBABLY IN LARGE PART BECAUSE
THE ISSUE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDULY CONTENTIOUS. THE ACTION AGAINST
BOYCOTTING STUDENTS SUGGESTS AN INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO USE
MARTIAL LAW POWERS TO DEAL WITH CONTINUING STUDENT UNREST.
HOWEVER, TO DATE THE AUTHORITIES HAVE ACTED CAUTIOUSLY, AND THERE
HAS BEEN NO RPT NO INDICATION THEY HAVE ACTED ARBITRARILY IN FAVOR
OF ONE GROUP OVER ANOTHER.
BERGUS

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